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On the electronic frontier

By David C. Churbuck

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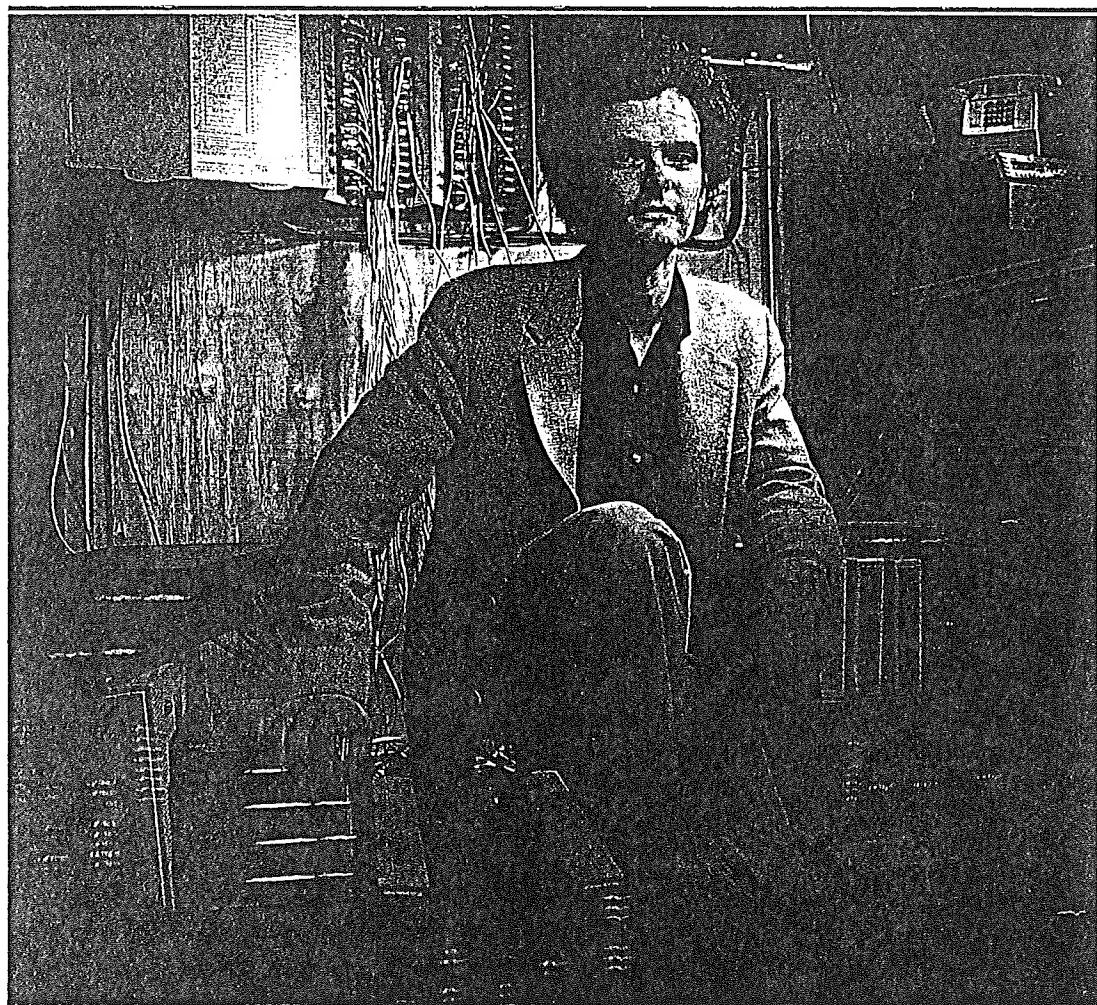
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How to Connect

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It used to be that selling Internet access was taboo under the guidelines set down by the federal government angel that financed the network, the National Science Foundation. The NSF-paid cross-country trunk line, known as the backbone, can move 45 megabits (that's about 5 megabytes) per second of data traffic from one regional hub to another. Hanging off the regional hubs are regional networks, consortia of universities and corporate research sites that agreed not to allow any traffic with a commercial flavor to flow over their wires.

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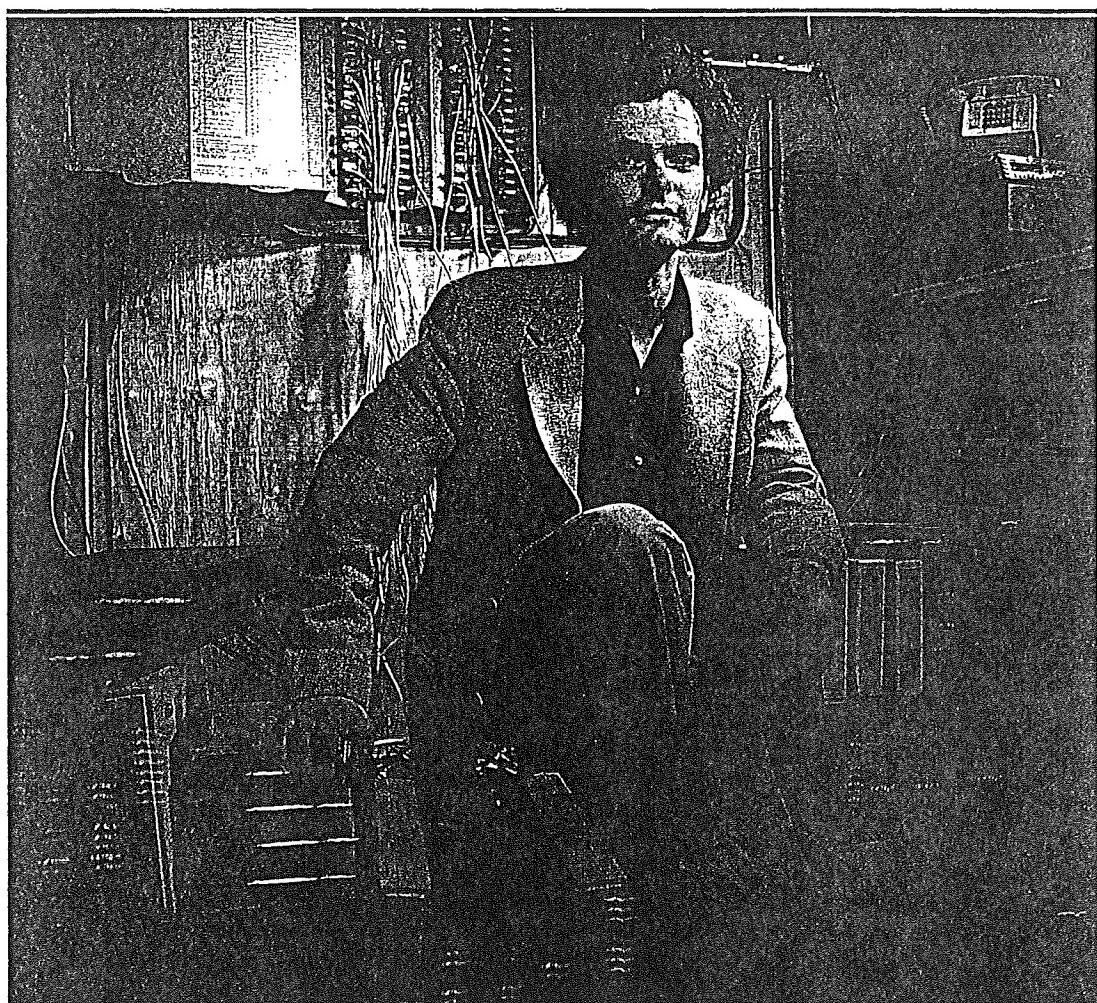
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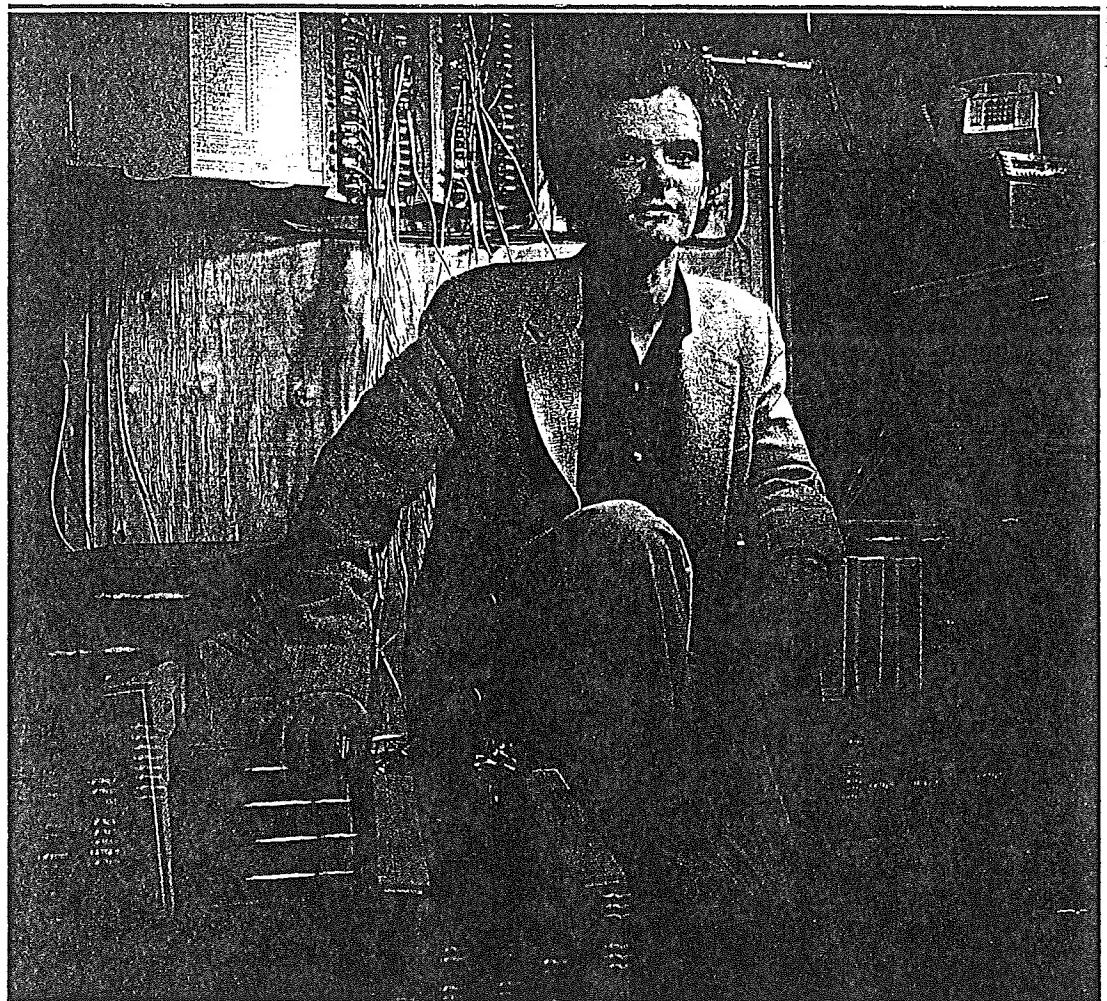
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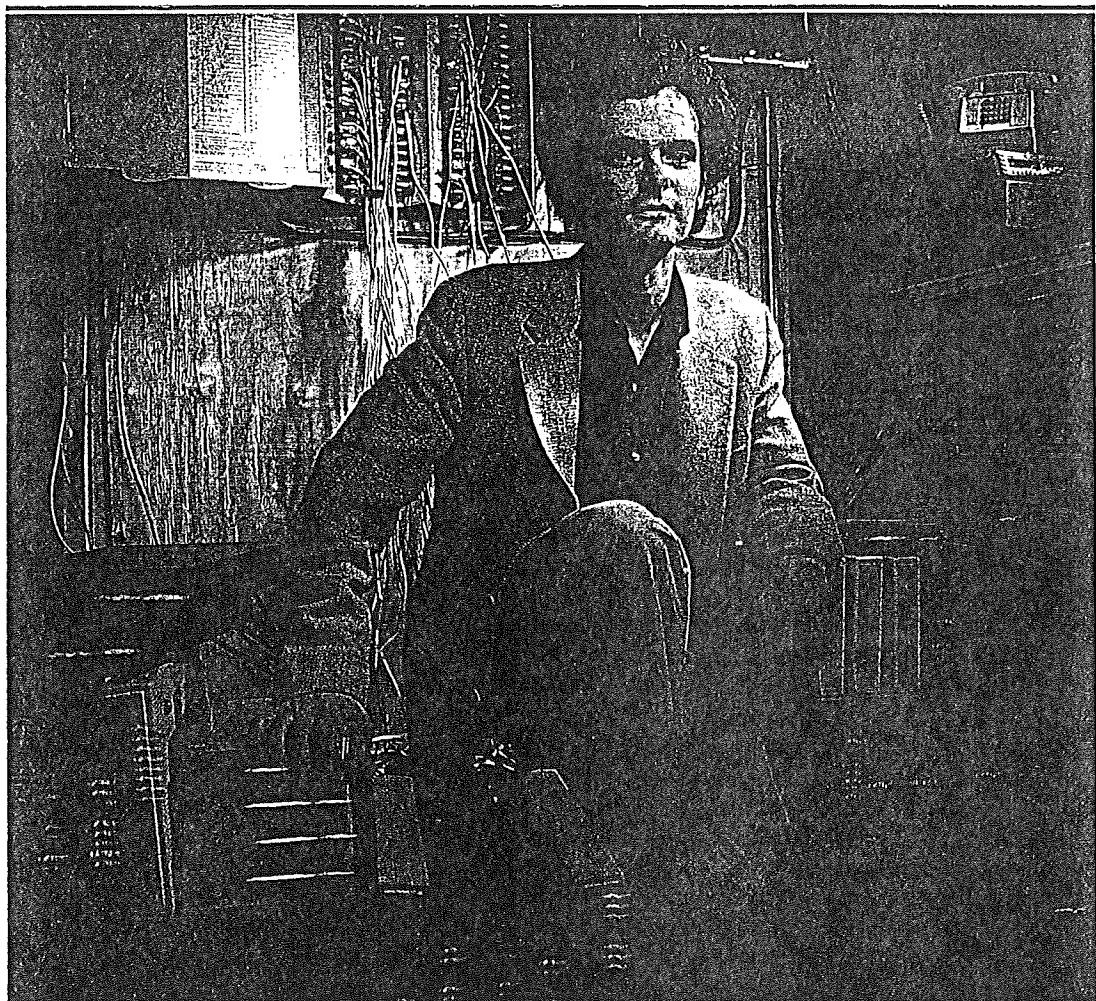
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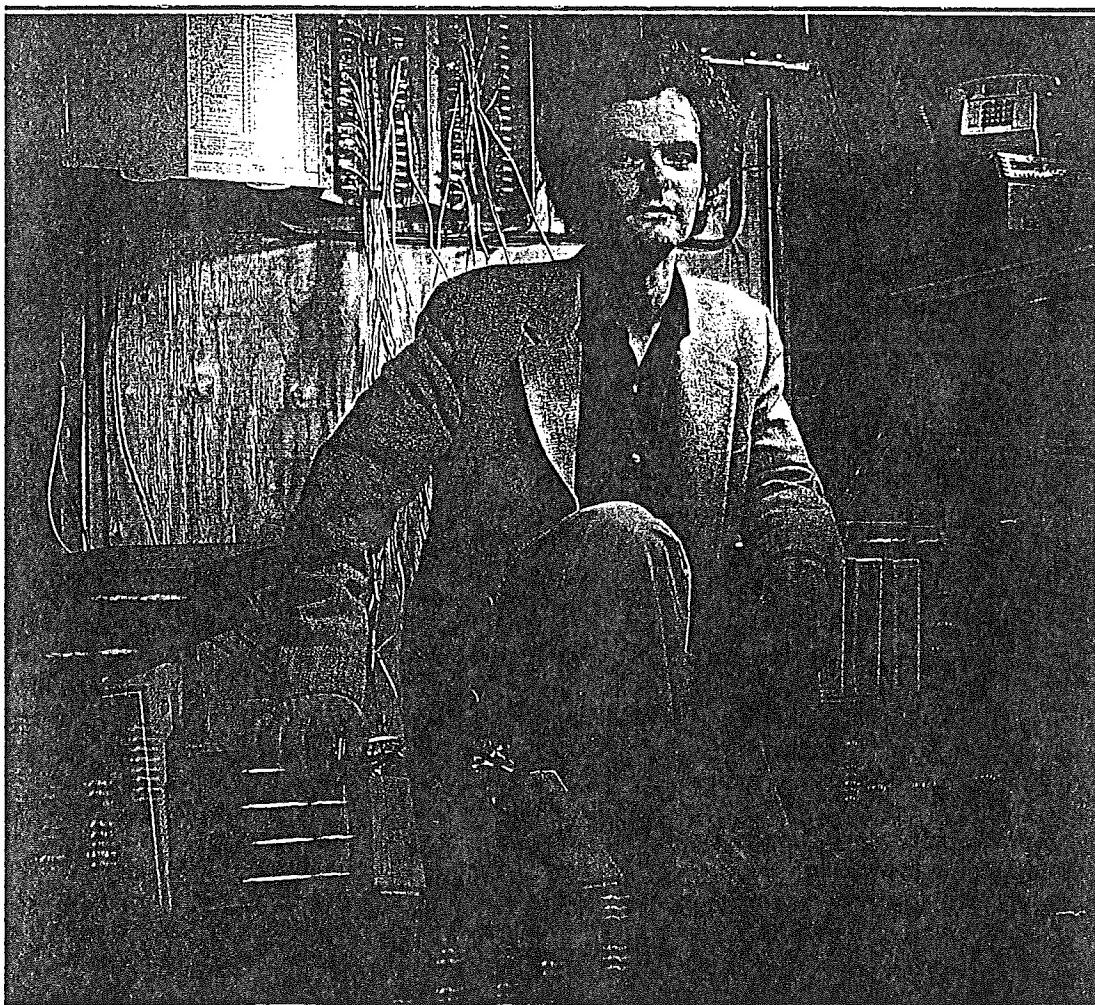
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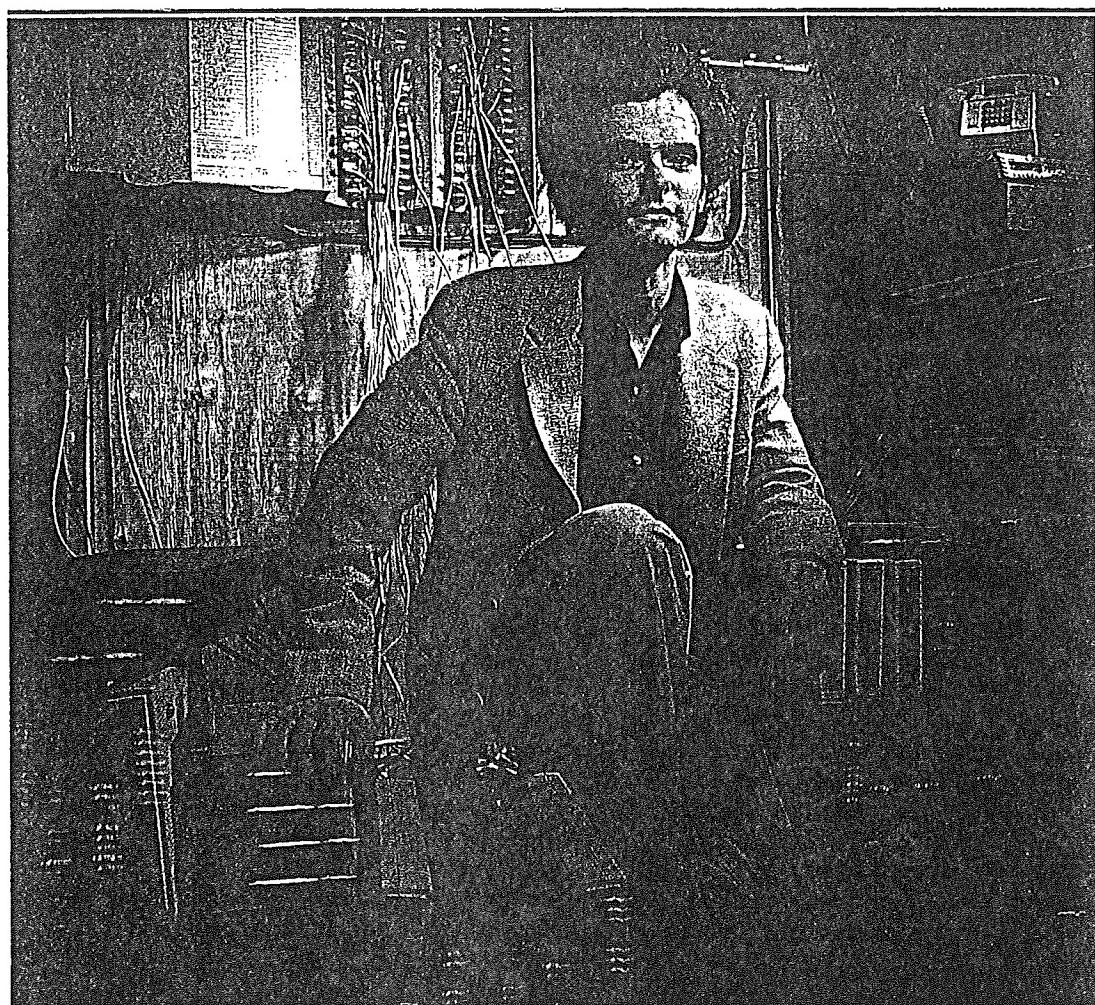
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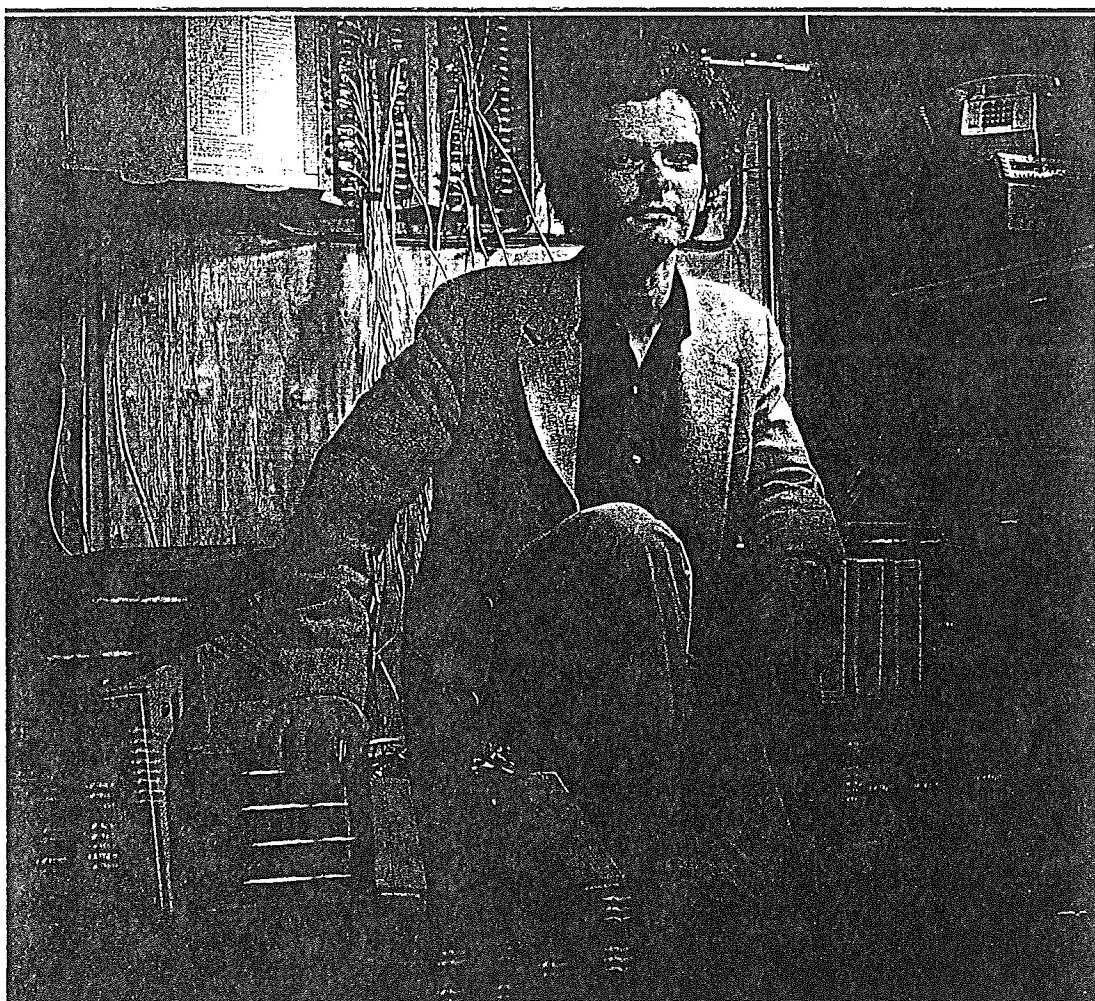
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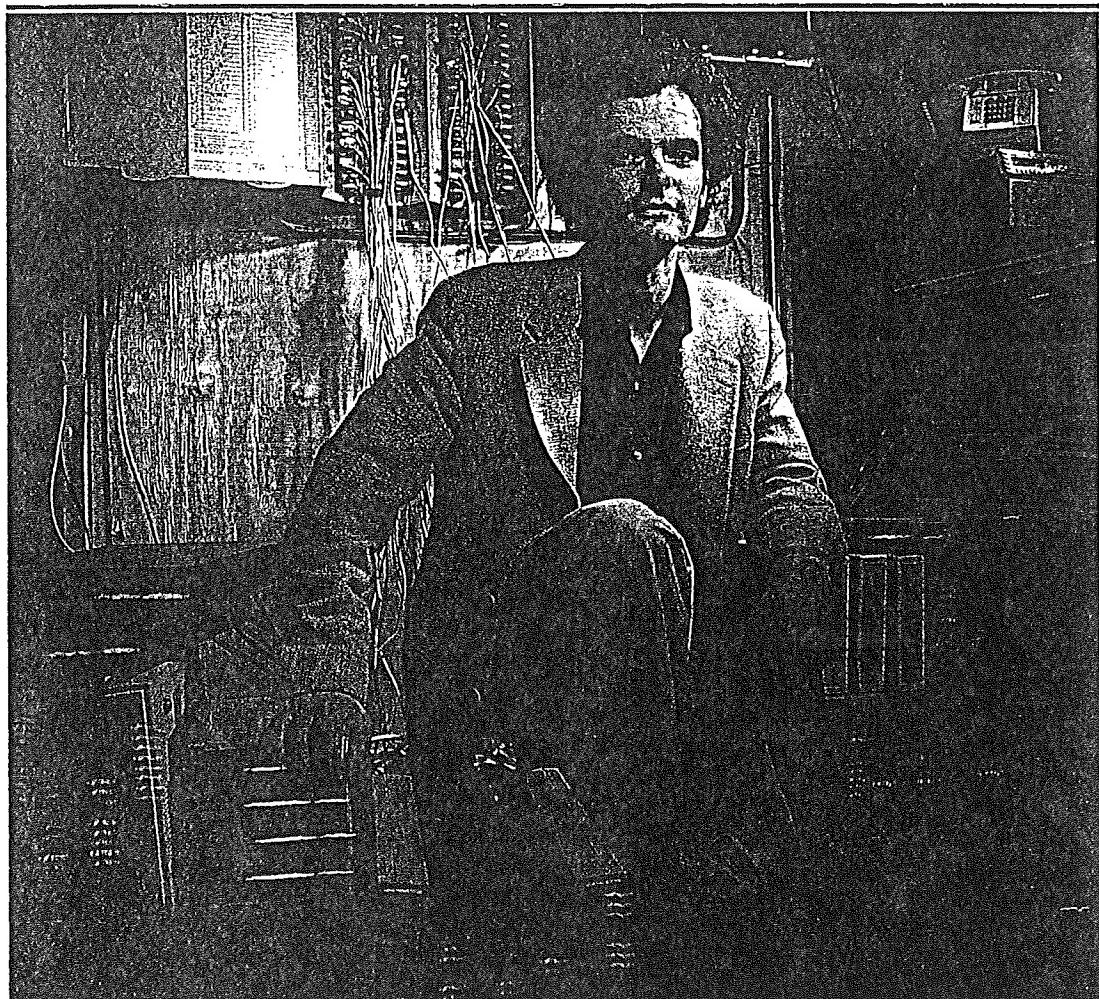
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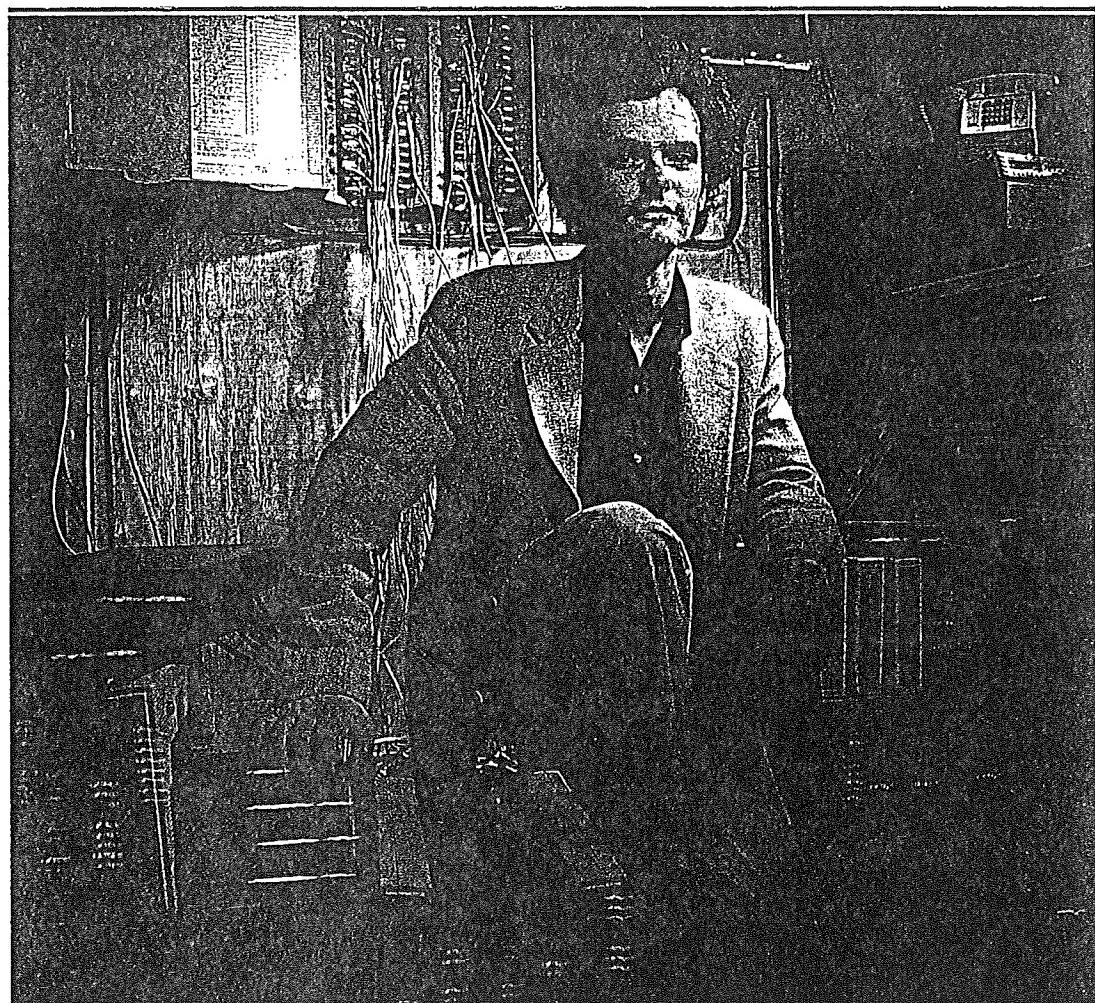
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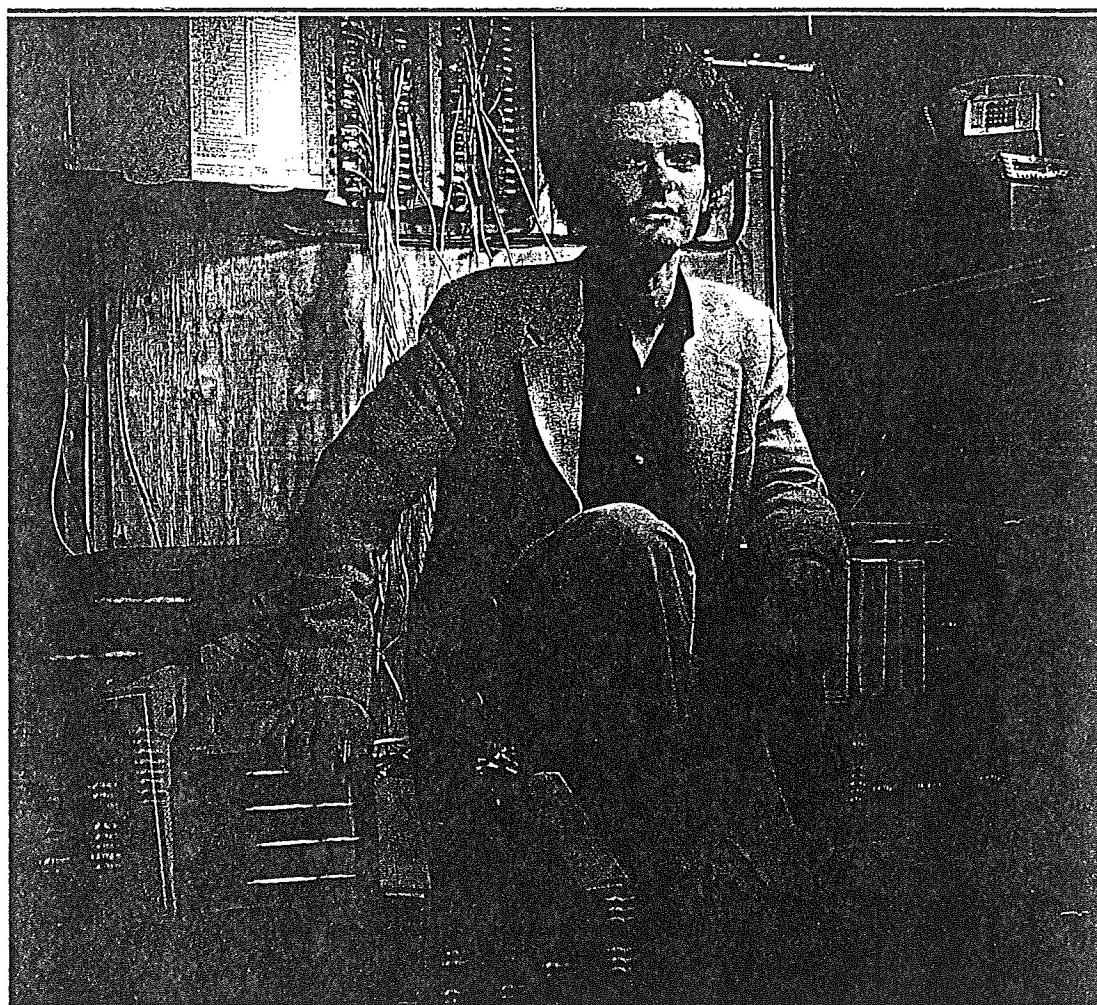
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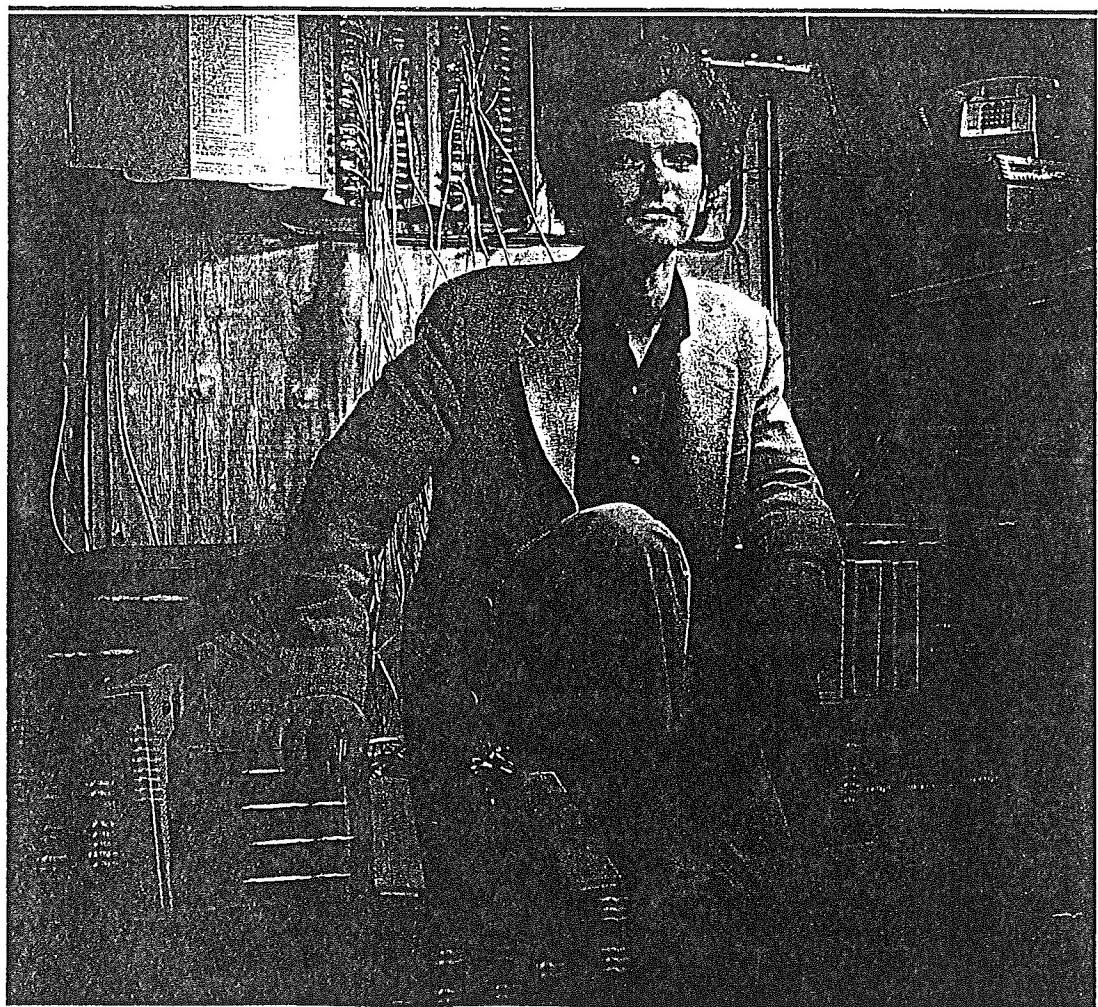
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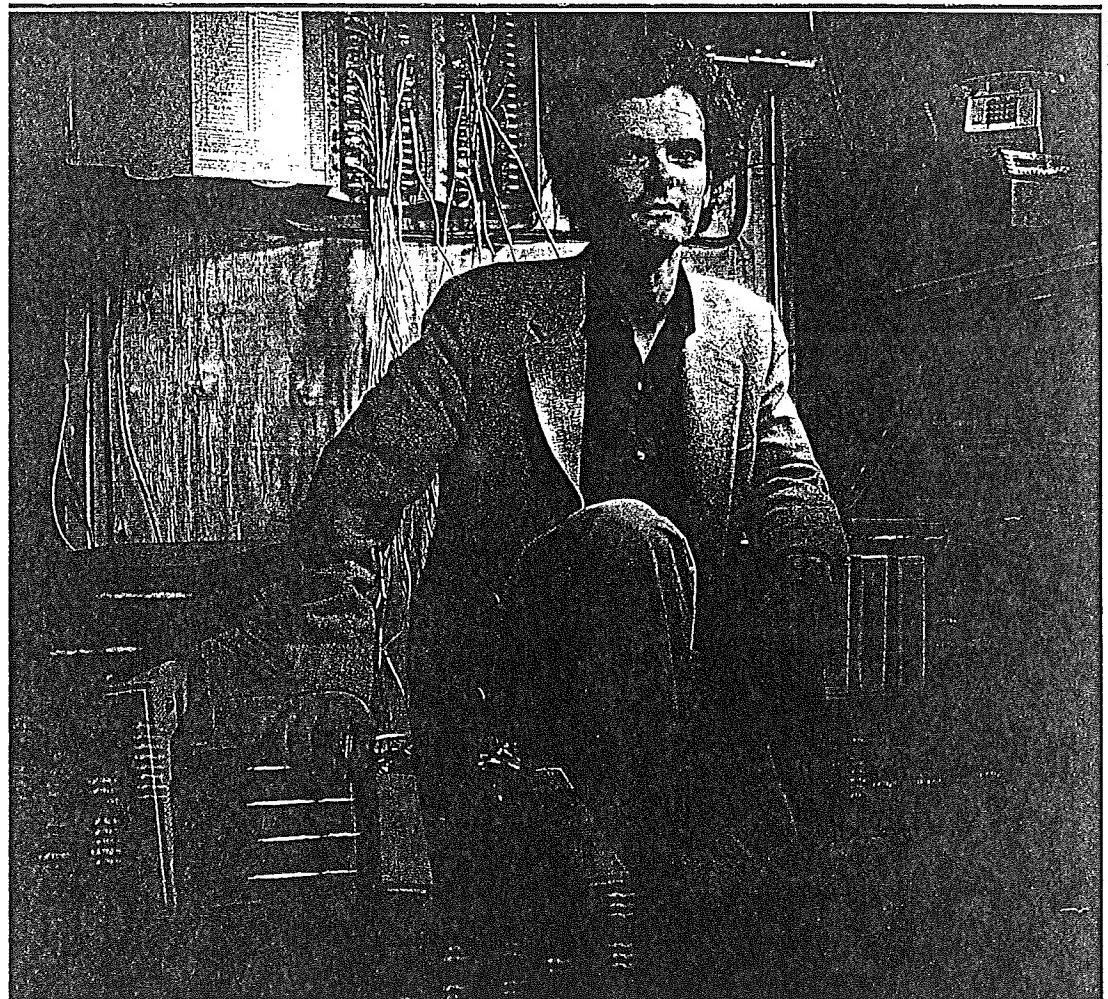
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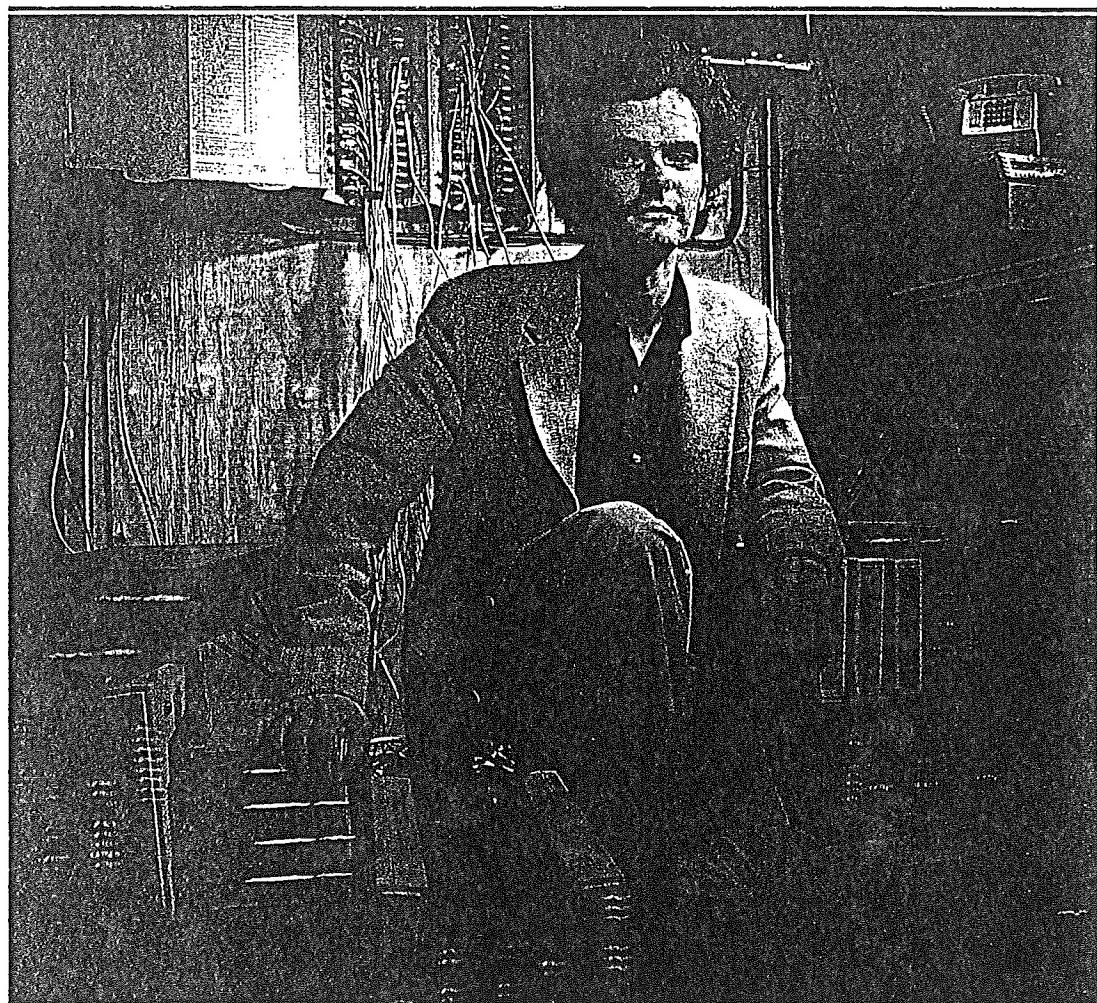
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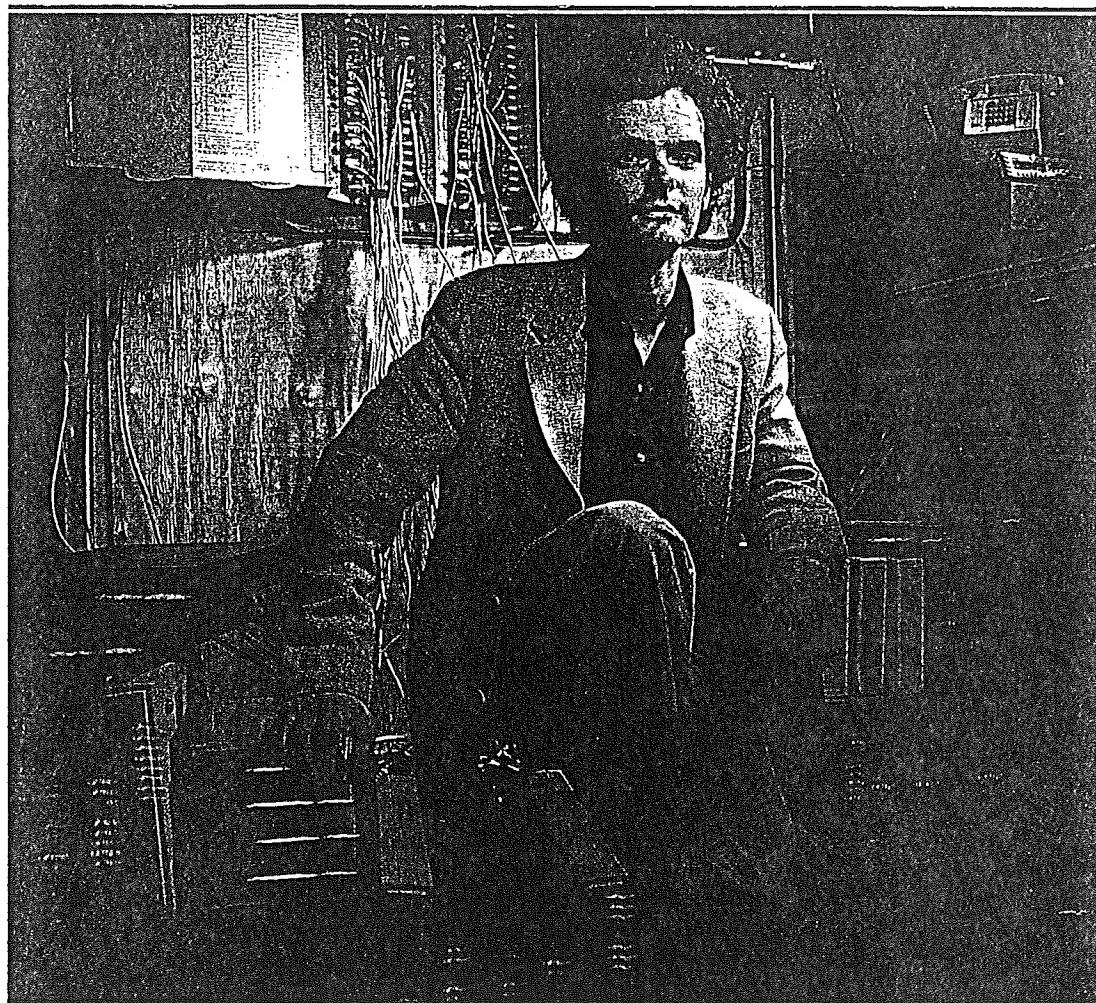
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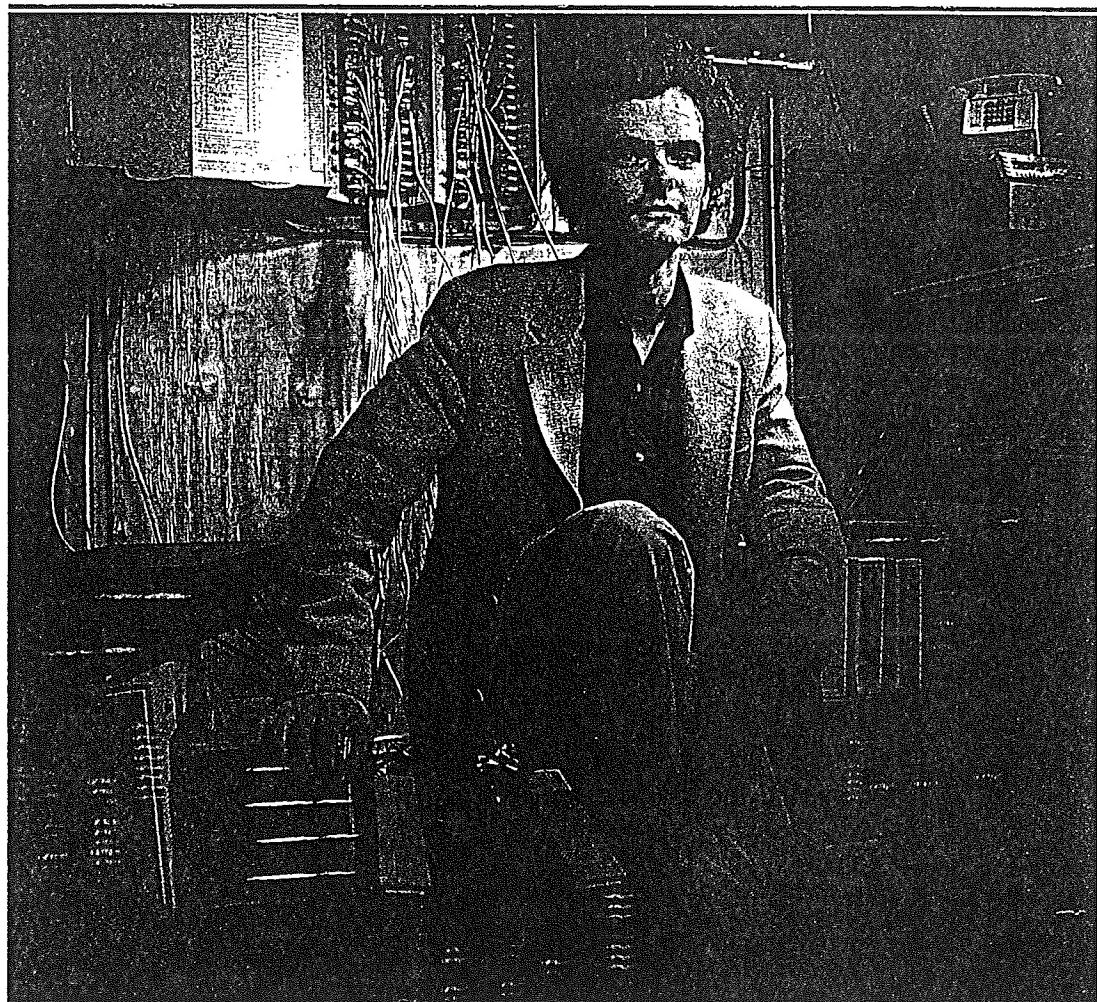
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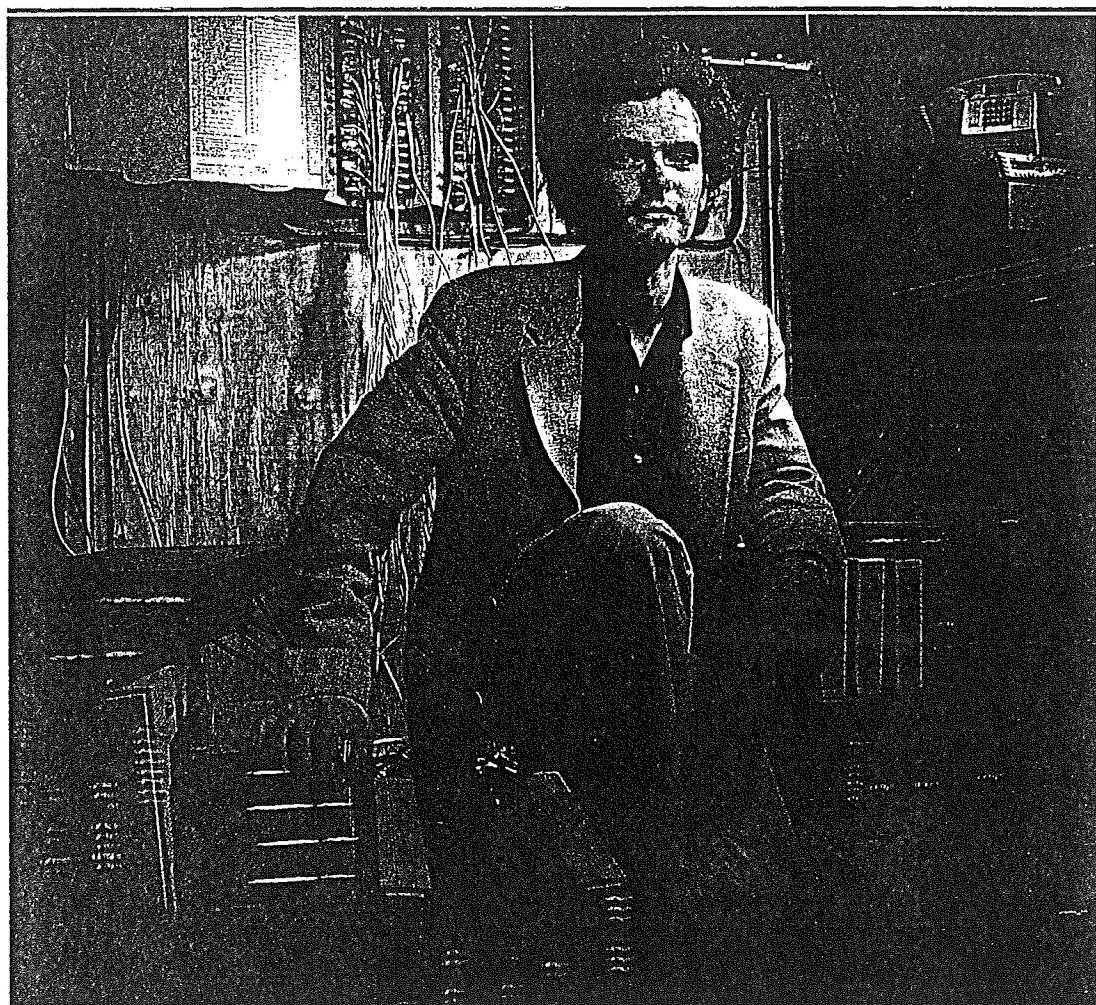
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